

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 8, 38, 40-45, 48-54, 72, 74, 89, 90, 96, 97, 111, and 130-156 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled without prejudice claims 8, 38, 40-45, 48-54, 72, 74, 89, 90, 96, 97, 111, 130, 139-148, 150, and 156, and amended claims 149 and 151. Applicant has also canceled claims 15-37, 55-71, 73, 75-88, 98-110, 114-117, 127, and 128, which were previously withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 131-138, 149, 151, and 152-155 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 111-146 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement of the recited term "positive lock receiver." The Examiner rejected claims 8, 38, 48, 90, 111, and 149 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 5,332,214 to Tucker, Sr. ("Tucker"). The Examiner rejected claims 8, 90, 48-54, 72, 74, and 89 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 3,310,309 to Moss ("Moss"), with an additional citation to U.S. Patent No. 6,102,813 to Dill ("Dill"). The Examiner also rejected claims 8, 38, 40-45, 48-54, 72, 74, 89-90, 96-97, 111, and 131-156 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on combinations and/or modifications of Moss, Tucker, Official Notice, and U.S. Patent No. 6,238,303 to Fite ("Fite").

To the extent these rejections might still be applied to the claims presently pending, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as described below. In responding to the Office

Action, the following remarks are organized under subheadings that correspond to the sections in the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (claims 96, 97, 111, and 145-147):

The Examiner rejected claims 111-146 for lacking enablement of the recited term “positive lock receiver.” Applicant believes, however, that this term only appears in claims 96, 97, 111, and 145-147. Because claims 96, 97, 111, and 145-147 have been canceled (merely to accelerate prosecution of this application), this rejection is now moot with respect to those claims.

35 U.S.C. §102 (claims 8, 38, 48-54, 72, 74, 89, 90, 111, and 149):

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 38, 48-54, 72, 74, 89, 90, 111, and 149 as anticipated by (or, alternatively, obvious over) Tucker and/or Moss. Because Applicant has canceled claims 8, 38, 48-54, 72, 74, 89, 90, 111, and 149 (merely to accelerate prosecution of this application), this rejection is now moot.

35 U.S.C. §103 (claims 8, 38, 40-45, 48-54, 72, 74, 89-90, 96-97, 111, and 131-156):

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 38, 40-45, 48-54, 72, 74, 89-90, 96-97, 111, and 131-156 as unpatentable over combinations and/or modifications of Moss, Tucker, Official Notice, and Fite. Because claims 8, 38, 40-45, 48-54, 72, 74, 89-90, 96-97, 111, 139-148, 150, and 156 have been canceled (merely to acceleration prosecution of this application), this rejection is now

moot with respect to those claims. To the extent that this rejection might still be applied to the claims presently pending in this application, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as described below.

Independent claims 131, 149, 151, and 152 recite unique molded-shell constructions of a putter head that are not taught or suggested by the applied references. In each case, a putter head includes a metal core with a shell molded over the metal core. Importantly, this molded shell helps secure the striking surface attachment to the putter head. Indeed, claim 131 recites that the shell secures the striking surface attachment to the putter head. Similarly, as recited in amended claims 149 and 151, the shell compresses against the thermoplastic surface of the striking surface attachment. Finally, in claim 152, the striking surface attachment presses against the thermoplastic shell to secure the striking surface attachment to the putter head. Support for these claims can be found, for example, in the specification at page 20, line 18 to page 21, line 2, at page 21, line 19 to 23, and at page 43, lines 9-22.

In rejecting claim 149 as obvious, the Examiner applied Tucker for its disclosure of a metal weight, which the Examiner found as having the function of the claimed metal core of the present invention. This rejection, however, fails to account for the thermoplastic shell molded around the metal core recited in amended claim 149, and furthermore, for the thermoplastic shell and the thermoplastic surface of the striking surface attachment as compressed against each other. None of the applied references shows a thermoplastic striking surface attachment held in place by a thermoplastic shell. The rejection of claims 131-155 as unpatentable over Moss in view of Tucker also overlooks the recited features associated with the molded shell. Indeed,

neither Tucker nor Moss, nor any of the other applied references, teach or suggest a putter head having a molded shell that helps secure a striking surface attachment to the putter head.

As a further distinguishable feature, claims 151, 154, and 155 recite magnets applied to the striking surface attachment and/or putter head face to further secure the striking surface attachment. In particular, claims 151 and 155 recite a golf putter head having a metal core and a thermoplastic shell molded around the metal core, with a portion of the metal core exposed to which a magnet is attached. None of the applied reference teaches or suggests these structural features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 131, 149, 151, and 152, as well as their corresponding dependent claims 131-138 and 153-155, are patentable over the applied references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims in this case are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

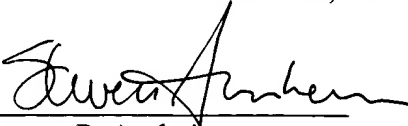
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Respectfully submitted,

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